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The Playground

COMMUNITY SERVICE



"HOLY NIGHT, PEACEFUL NIGHT,
THROUGH THE DARKNESS BEAMS A LIGHT."

DECEMBER
1921

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CENTS

The Playground

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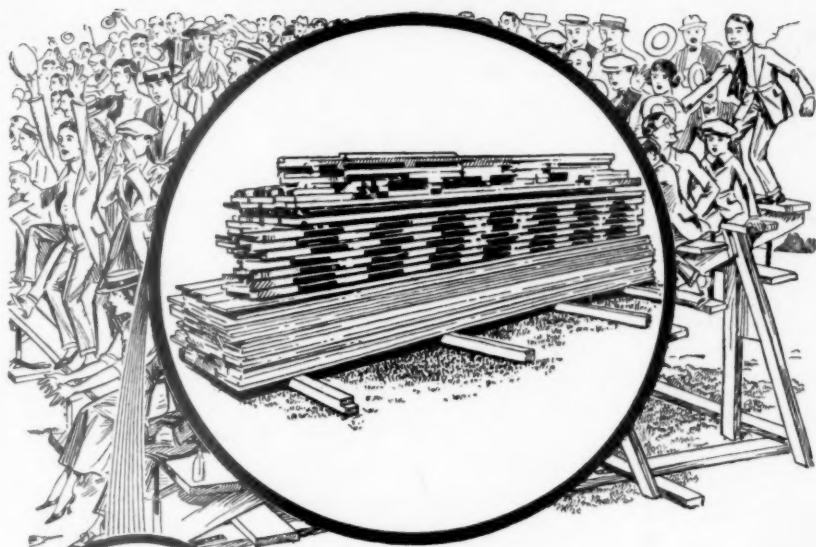
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WHY PLAYGROUNDS ARE NEEDED



THE COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS TREE, IN MADISON SQUARE
PARK, NEW YORK CITY

The Playground

Vol. XV No. 9

DECEMBER 1921

The World at Play

A Community Center for Landour, India.—The following extracts from a letter received at national headquarters of Community Service from a missionary in Landour make vivid the need of community centers in India.

"There is nothing but mud houses, one wall forming the wall of its neighboring habitants, and on the mud steps rows of dirty children or half naked men. You remark at the entire absence of women—the women of these houses are never allowed to see the outside world unless heavily veiled so they sit together in a dark little room at the rear of the house and talk petty talk. No boys play merrily on the street; they sit idly or crouch about the religious man under the pipal tree listening to and laughing at his foul jokes and stories. There are no libraries with their attractive books and magazines, no churches with their beautiful colored windows and pealing music; no parks with cool shade and

clean, green grass, not even a show window or picture palace.

"Into such a community we are introducing a community center just as rapidly as we can find the equipment and the money to buy more equipment. Already swings hang from the trees and are in constant use. We have a sand pile and kindergarten for the little ones. There are books—good books—and pictures. We have grafo-nola concerts and picture shows. There are courts for badminton, croquet, hockey, cricket, basket ball. There are ping-pong tables, dominoes, quoits, checkers and such games, and the boys especially are learning to play."

Play for the Children of France.—"We used to wonder if we could ever get them to play but all that has passed now, and there is not the slightest doubt in any of our minds as to the French child's ability to enjoy a playground." Thus writes the chief of the

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French Department of the Junior Red Cross. She contrasts the lively, healthy children who entered so joyously into the games during the past summer with the inert children who sat about with expressionless faces waiting to be amused the year before. The mothers, too, have caught the play spirit. "Oh, Madame," said one mother to the director, "you have no idea how many pairs of trousers my little boys wear out since they come here to play, but I do not mind the expense—not at all—when I think of how healthy they are and how much they have improved since they began to come to the playground." And her husband standing by nodded his head emphatically and said: "Oui, oui, c'est bien—ca."

In the heart of Paris, in war-ravaged Rheims, Amiens and Meuse and in many other towns, French children are regaining their rosy cheeks and merry spirits through play. Public officials have become interested in playgrounds and play equipment through Red Cross Child Welfare exhibits and men and women are training themselves for playground monitresses and monitors.

Probably nowhere in France

has a playground been more appreciated than in that quarter of Paris known as the "Cité Jeanne D'Arc." Here the shoddy tenement houses, six stories high, are cut up into small rooms, families of seven or eight often living in one room with no conveniences whatsoever and not a drop of water save what they carry from two fountains in the courtyard. Eight hundred children under thirteen were swarming the streets of this section last year. This summer they are digging in sand piles, swinging, and playing volley ball on a big, sunny playground which used to be a dumping ground for the community.

Play in Mexico.—"The Department of Public Health of Mexico City," writes Miss Helen Bowyer, "has been active in promoting playgrounds.

"One of the features of the 'Semana del Nino' which the Department held September 11-17, was a small playground with a swing, teeter board and two sliding boards all housed in a big tent on the Paseo de la Reforma just in front of the Departamento. It was overwhelmingly popular and the children literally stood waiting by the hundreds for their turn at the apparatus. A little later

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in the month, we people of the American colony presented the city with a quite sizable playground, well equipped with all the above apparatus and bars and flying machines. Apart from these two and a small playground run by the Presbyterian Mission, I know of no others in the city and should like to interest the authorities in their establishment."

Peace Exhibition in Tokio.—From March 10th to July 31st, 1922, there will be a peace exhibition in Tokio, Japan. Exhibits from all countries are solicited representing every phase of organized human enterprise. The division of social service wishes material relating to charity and welfare work of all kinds—reports, statistics, photographs, posters. It is desired to make this part of the exhibition as complete as possible since the interest among the Japanese in social service is rapidly increasing.

Must Teach Physical Training.—A Bulletin of the State Board of Education of Virginia reads as follows:

An Act of the Assembly of Virginia, 1920, provides that all children in the public schools shall receive as a part of the educational program

health instruction and physical training. The act further provides that normal schools shall set up appropriate courses for this training. It is stipulated in the act that after 1925 no applicant to teach may receive a certificate without having completed a satisfactory course in medical inspection and physical training.

The law clearly imposes an immediate responsibility to train children in health instruction. It is, therefore, necessary for present and prospective applicants to avail themselves of every opportunity offered to be prepared in physical education. The State Department will consider such preparation in the issuing of certificates. The normal schools must offer appropriate courses for those attending. Other applicants should avail themselves of the training offered at summer schools or through other special courses approved by the State Board of Education.

Sailors Refurnish Community House.—Gloucester, Massachusetts, had a community house badly in need of renovation. In Gloucester Harbor were several ships containing sailors who were beginning to find time hanging heavy on their hands. It remained for

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labor representatives on the Gloucester Community Service committee to interest the sailors, who had already found the community house a most hospitable haven, in the job that needed to be done. For several days tars could be seen wielding paint-brushes within and without the building, evidently enjoying this occupation to the utmost. As a result of their labors, the community house boasts not only fresh paint but also newly upholstered furniture.

A Community Service Street Party.—The various neighborhoods of Paris, Kentucky, were at home to Paris Community Service on September 23rd when three truckloads of Community Service enthusiasts followed by about thirty automobiles made their way about the city. Crowds gathered at each of the street corners where the procession stopped. A short program consisting of community singing, brief talks by local people and negro ballad singing was carried out at each point. These neighborhood nights bid fair to accomplish their purpose—that of getting people better acquainted with each other and more interested in the general work of the organization.

Community Service Cooperates in "No Accident Week."—Community Service in Westfield, Massachusetts, cooperated in "No Accident Week" by arranging with the management of the Strand Theater to give prizes in the form of theater admissions for the best posters drawn by children in the Westfield Schools. The judges were chosen from the schools, the Police Department, the Merchants' Association and the Chamber of Commerce.

Vacant Lot Party.—One way to bring before a neighborhood the fact that there is within its bounds a vacant lot which might be converted into a play place for children is to get the neighborhood folks on the spot and demonstrate possibilities. This was recently done in Seattle, Washington, by holding a picnic dinner. A Community Service song leader led the hundred and fifty picnickers in community singing, and there followed a talk about the organization of the district and the establishment of a playground.

Transplanting Recreation.—The Community Service Recreation League of San Francisco does not confine its efforts to planning good times at the various neighborhood

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centers—its members go out to people who cannot come in and enjoy their regular programs. There are in the city many people with musical and dramatic talent who have found a means of self-expression and a way to help entertain others through Community Service. Programs for sailors on battleships in the harbor and for soldiers in nearby encampments have been frequent. A recent trip was to Alcatraz Island, where an amusing one-act comedy and some solo singing entertained several hundred prisoners.

Boys' Club.—Aberdeen, Washington, boys have organized, under Community Service, a club for athletic and social purposes. They will have club rooms in the Liberty Auditorium, recently converted for Community Service use, and Saturday night will be known as Boys' Night. All boys between the ages of twelve and twenty are eligible. The boys voted a nominal membership fee, which will not be compulsory, for the purchase of apparatus for the gym. The name "Aberdeen Boys' Club" lends itself to the admirable contraction "The A. B. C.'s." Besides the usual officers, there is one having the impressive title of "Sergeant

at Arms." Mrs. Rose M. Davis, director of Community Service, is treasurer and advisor.

Colored Playground Work, Newport, Kentucky.—The colored children of Newport, Kentucky, have a new playground, opened June 20th. Splashing in the wading pool has proved to be the most popular sport. A small army of children flock daily from the neighboring towns to enjoy it. Sewing and embroidery classes for girls and first aid classes for boys are conducted. During the warm July weather a penny lemonade stand was opened and with the proceeds the playground was able not only to pay for the stand, but to buy locks for the swings and to build a dressing room. A band concert late in July brought in over \$100. Most of the playground entertainments for parents and children are not put on, however, for the purpose of raising money.

Play for Cincinnati's Institutions.—Cincinnati Community Service undertook this summer the special task of demonstrating the value of recreation, under leadership, to the various institutions of the city. Most of these homes have ample grounds, but, because they have had no one to

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direct their play, the children have spent their play periods in merely standing around—unless some of the boys started a little excitement by fighting. The Community Service worker found a quick response to her play leading at Protestant and Catholic Orphanages and at the Home for Delinquent Girls. The older girls became quite enthusiastic about folk-dancing, while the younger children liked ring games and storytelling.

Dramatic Institute for Church Workers.—Boston as well as New York has appreciated the importance of emphasizing the relation of the church drama. From November 7th to December 12th there is being held under the auspices of the Dramatic Department of Community Service of Boston, a dramatic institute for church workers. A small registration fee is charged for the courses and a certificate given at the end of the school to those who satisfactorily complete the course.

The topics discussed at the institute, which is being conducted under a combination of lecture and workshop methods, include organization and directing, stage craft, costuming, lighting, the voice, pageant writing, storytelling, story

playing and Scripture dramatization.

The list of lectures and instructors includes many of the leading experts of the country and is a guarantee of the effectiveness of the experiment.

Yale Athletes to Train Community Leaders.—Yale University is backing an effort to put the experience and skill of the University coaches and athletes at the disposal of the people of New Haven who want to play. Two training schools have been started under the direction of Community Service—the School of Coaching and the School for Training Neighborhood Recreation Leaders. Thirty have registered for the first and sixty-eight for the second. Walter Camp, Charles Taft, Dr. Anderson, Dr. E. H. Arnold and many other distinguished workers in this field are among the Faculty members. The movement is endorsed by the Mayor, President Angell of Yale, the Chamber of Commerce, the Board of Education, the New Haven Normal School of Gymnastics.

In the work of organizing districts for leisure time activities ten leagues have been formed with a membership of

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700 boys. Sixty men will act as official in these leagues.

Rotarians Aboard Ship.—The *Cameronia*, the official ship bearing Rotarians to the International Rotary Convention in Edinburgh, was the scene of many gay times during the passage over. In addition to daily quoits, shuffle 28-board and a fascinating game picked up from the crew and steerage passengers a successful masquerade was held, the costumes devised out of whatever happened to be at hand. The big play event of the voyage, however, was the Olympic Games. Rope Skipping, Potato Race, Three-Legged Race, Whistling Race, Bolster Bar Competition and other novel events, ending in a tug of war, occupied the entire day.

A number of song leaders on board and a famous Rotary Quartet from Wichita, Kansas, added to the good spirit.

Rotarians Volunteer Painters.—Members of the Rotary Club of Aberdeen, working with the Aberdeen Community Service, painted the interior of the Liberty Auditorium. The Aberdeen World says: "Behold! Walls that were raw and cold at eight this morning, a soft grey at twelve.

Behold the Community Service Building made right and ready for young and old by the actual hands of Rotary Club members—all busy men giving willing hours of work for the service of the community."

Knights of Columbus Historical Prizes.—"To encourage investigation into the origins, the achievements and the problems of the United States; to interpret and perpetuate the American principles of liberty, popular sovereignty and government by consent; to promote American solidarity; and to exalt the American ideal; the Knights of Columbus Historical Commission is authorized to solicit and accept original studies in the field of American History."

An anonymous prize competition and a non-competitive historical program are provided for. Prizes of five hundred to three thousand dollars will be awarded in the competition and due compensation made in the non-competitive program.

Full details may be obtained from the Knights of Columbus Historical Commission, 199 Massachusetts Avenue, Boston, Massachusetts.

Reading Courses for Reading Circles.—The Bureau of

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Education of the Department of the Interior has prepared reading courses on various subjects which may be secured for the asking. Community workers and teachers in small towns and rural sections will find these courses especially suited for groups who want to form reading circles and other regular meetings to discuss their reading. The following courses are ready for distribution:

1. The great literary Bibles
2. Masterpieces of the world's literature
3. A reading course for parents
4. Miscellaneous reading for boys
5. Miscellaneous reading for girls
6. Thirty books of great fiction
7. Some of the world's heroes
8. American literature
9. Biography
10. History

Readers may enroll for these courses as they would for any school course and are asked to report on each book read. When the course is finished a simple test is sent to the reader and a certificate is given for each course satisfactory completed.

Fall Festival Twenty-three Days Long in Lincoln, Illinois.

Thirty organizations of Logan County, Illinois, joined forces

in a fall festival twenty-three days long, beginning October 20th and ending in an Armistice Day celebration.

The idea started with the plans of a group of merchants to repeat the fall festival and sales week they had held the year before. It was the suggestion of the Community Service organizer that this be broadened into a celebration that should include all organizations in the County that wished to participate.

Residents of Lincoln report that seldom, if ever before, was the city so intensely interested in making a single event successful. The program was wholly the product of local talent. Special days included are Fraternal and Hospitality Day, Home-coming Day, County, School Day, Community Day and Farm Products Day.

The festival came to a close on Armistice Day with the dedication of a memorial tablet at the court house, a football game and a pageant in the evening of local and national historic events.

Prison Glee Club Visits Wilmington Church.—As a result of the musical visits of Mrs. Marie Haughey to the Newcastle County Workhouse, a glee club of white and colored prisoners was trained to such efficiency that it was recently invited by the

THE WORLD AT PLAY

Pastor of St. Paul's M. E. Church to give a concert in his church. The Glee Club made its expedition under the honor system, traveling in motor cars without guard. The singing of the Glee Club was part of a regular service attended by some 2,000 of the city's prominent people. In introducing the Glee Club, the Rev. Mr. Hubbard spoke of the fact that the club had been developed by Community Service as represented by Mrs. Haughey. As a token of appreciation to their instructor the members of the Glee Club and other prisoners have presented a gold pin to Mrs. Haughey. The actual leader of the club is colored.

Carolina County Holds Eisteddfod.—A choral contest between the various townships of Harnett County was held on Labor Day at Lillington, the county seat. Five thousand persons heard the singing. Judge E. H. Cramer postponed the opening of the Superior court until the next day in honor of the occasion. The arrangements were in the hands of Miss Mame F. Camp, County Director of Community Service under the State Board of Education. Each choral group was allowed twenty-five minutes for its program, which was to include religious, secular, patriotic, and quartet music. Mr. Hoffmeister, the

community song leader, assisted the groups in their final rehearsals and trained them for a joint appearance in *Massa's in de Cold, Cold Ground*. The first prize, a silver loving cup, was awarded to Neill's Creek township by the five judges, who were from outside the county.

Music Work with Foreign-Born Featured in Elizabeth.

A progressive program has been laid out for the coming year by the Music Council of Elizabeth Community Service. The plans called for a Caruso Memorial Concert, a Spring Festival, uniting the choruses and other musical organizations, the extending to the entire community of the Music Memory Contest, inaugurated last year in the public schools, the presentation of a special concert, in which the foreign-born groups will present their characteristic music, and assistance toward instrumental instruction for talented young people.

Ukulele Groups Play Accompaniment for Sing.—At one of the band concert sings in Port Jervis a novelty was introduced in the form of the appearance of the members of a ukulele class of the Girls' Recreation League, trained by Miss Mabel Treat. *Let the Rest of the World Go By* and *Till We Meet Again*

THE WORLD AT PLAY

were sung by the girls to their own accompaniment, with the entire assemblage later taking up each refrain.

The People of St. Paul Give Themselves a Pipe Organ.—

"This is no ordinary occasion of entertainment," said the mayor of St. Paul at the dedication of the new municipal pipe organ. "It is a symbol of a growing desire among neighbors for co-operation and an indication of the mobilization of the forces which enable the community to accomplish the things for its own welfare and improvement." The organ was the gift to the city of 30,000 citizens. It has been installed in the big municipal auditorium which was itself given to the city a few years ago by the people of St. Paul.

This building is designed for the enjoyment of the whole city. It has been the scene of opera, of public meetings of many kinds, and of conventions. With the installation of the beautiful new organ begins a series of daily organ recitals to give downtown workers a few moments of music during lunch hour. A series of more elaborate recitals will be given every Sunday afternoon for 42 weeks.

The mayor predicted that this instrument would become a musical institution which would lift

the community to a higher conception of the meaning of friendship.

"Ford Wigwam."—Recreational facilities of Highland Park, Michigan, are the richer through the gift of a cottage by Henry Ford which will serve, under the direction of the Highland Park Recreation Commission, as the headquarters of recreational activities for girls and women. The Wigwam, as it is called, is located on the Henry Ford athletic field.

The Wigwam was recently dedicated with appropriate ceremonies in which "braves" and "squaws" danced around the campfire in an impressive Indian pageant and ceremonial.

Children's Movies in Hamilton, Ohio.—Community Service of Hamilton, Ohio, held Saturday morning movies for the children last summer. The pictures were very carefully selected so as to have plenty of thrills, but thrills of a healthful variety. Ralph Ince as Abraham Lincoln in *The Highest Law* and Marguerite Clark as *Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch* were two of the pictures shown. Matinees were free but contributions of five and ten cents a performance were requested from those who could afford to help defray the expenses.

How George Ade Keeps Open House on an Indiana Farm

"We need in the country more playgrounds and more shower baths and recognition of the truth that the men and women who live in the country need not regard themselves as mere work animals. We need these things if we are to check the flow of population to the cities," writes George Ade to the national headquarters of Community Service (Incorporated).

Out on Hazelden Farm in Indiana Mr. Ade is putting this belief into practice. Here is his description of the way his private woods and fields and swimming pool and golf course have become a recreation center for the people of the country round about.

Private Grounds Became a Picnic Park

"In 1904 I moved to the country, in order to find a quiet spot where I could do my work undisturbed by the complications of city life.

My house was built at one corner of a farm which I own and because this corner of the farm bordered a small river and was wooded with very fine specimens of our best native trees, I became generous and gave myself a wide domain for the private grounds surrounding the house. In clearing up the grounds we opened many spaces and threw them into stretches of lawn but at the same time we preserved as background a great variety of the large and small trees and brush and vines that we found in the woods. People came in large numbers to ramble about the premises and hold picnic parties. We had about the only playground in the whole region which was cleared away and had an artificial setting of flowers and green sward.

"In 1908 Mr. Taft opened his presidential campaign here at Hazelden, and we had 15,000 to 20,000 people on the grounds that day.

"I built a swimming pool out at the west of the grounds and later on built a dancing pavilion, fifty by thirty-five feet, and that building has been used for a hundred purposes since 1910. The State Council of Defense met there and also the County Council. The Red Cross used it during the war as an assembling depot. Clubs and societies from Chicago and Indianapolis and other cities have made it their headquarters at various out-

GEORGE ADE KEEPS OPEN HOUSE

ings. Near the pavilion, as we call it, was a fine open playground entirely circled by trees. Here we laid out a small diamond and the business men from surrounding towns came once a week to play soft ball. Later on we laid out a little nine-hole golf course within the home grounds. The neighbors became so fond of the baby course that a club was formed and now we have a real nine-hole course, three thousand yards long, and we have a club-house and a good tennis court and nearly all of the usual fixtures of an up-to-date country club.

A Family or a Club is Welcome

"Several years ago the Sunday visitors swamped us and we had to close the grounds on Sundays, but I have made it a rule not to turn down week-day visitors whether they come in small family parties or in large organizations. We have entertained parties ranging in size from fifty to eighteen thousand. The banner day was the Home-Coming celebration for soldiers and sailors on July 4th, 1919, when we had by actual count twenty-six hundred motor cars parked in the pastures and along the roadways.

"As I write this, we are getting ready to pull off a picnic for the farmers of three counties and it promises to be a gigantic affair.

"These big parties are a little hard on the lawn and the shrubbery, but they are a great thing for the community.

"My experience with large crowds has been that people behave themselves and do not willfully destroy property or do any damage. Of course, when you have several thousand people swarming in the ten-acre enclosure at one time, they will kick up the turf a little and make a good deal of a muss, but they don't really do any damage that cannot be repaired. They enjoy a visit to grounds that are landscaped and well kept and they turn out in droves whenever invited."

A County Park Would Meet a Real Need

Mr. Ade believes that public parks should be less few and far between. This is his recommendation:

"Since motor cars have eliminated distance and good roads have directly connected all the townships in every country, the 'county park' has become almost a necessity. Every small town and every rural township should have near at hand for the free use of the public a large park which will serve the purposes of our grounds, here at Hazelden. The forest preserve idea is all right and the state parks deserve public support, but they are too

VOLUNTEER SERVICE

far apart. Each family who owns a little motor car should have a park within easy riding distance. In the average county of the corn belt, the family that starts out for a day of recreation usually winds up by taking a picnic lunch in the open highway. The woodland pastures are either barred against visitors or they are littered and dirty and uninviting. I believe the county park would be a real blessing. Part of it should be cleared for parking space and athletic field and the remainder should be left in a natural condition except that deadwood and down timber should be cleared away. All the native trees and shrubs and flowers should find a refuge in this local park. All the important athletic contests of the county should be held on the athletic field. In each county you will now find several towns and each of these towns has a sorry-looking ball park and a weed-grown open space somewhere which is used for football and track meets, but if all the towns in the county should unite they could support a first-class athletic field surrounded by bleachers and comparing with any college outfit.

"By accident, and not because I started out to be a benefactor, I have been conducting an experimental park of the kind I am now advocating."

Volunteer Service

Henry P. Davison, formerly Vice-President of the Playground and Recreation Association of America, as a volunteer rendered unusual public service as Chairman of the Red Cross. Now John Barton Payne, who also has had a long experience in recreation work, has as a volunteer accepted the chairmanship of the American Red Cross. John Barton Payne for many years was a leader in the recreation development of the Chicago South Park System. Not only all the cities of America but the cities of Europe and the Orient have followed the development of Chicago's recreation program under his leadership.

The field of human betterment is, after all, one field, and it is a good thing to have this exchange of workers back and forth between various branches of the great social movement.

The Village Hearthstone

The Story of a Public Library in a Country Town

ETHEL ARMES

Community Service (Incorporated)

Does the public library in your community mean anything definitely alive to you and your neighbors? Does it give really practical suggestions and aid? For instance, does it offer to Mother a solution of certain knotty household as well as educational problems? Can Father get books and papers there that will serve him in his trade or business, or in running the farm, in gardening, apple growing or stock raising? Can Brother or Sister learn from its book shelves about dairying, chicken raising, canning or basketry? Can everybody take out as many books at a time as he wishes?

Are special meetings and exhibitions tied up with local needs and enterprises ever held in your library by the churches, schools, the grange, or historical associations?

Is there an open fireplace around which the neighbors—including the children—may gather and talk of an afternoon or evening?

Or is your public library cold and cheerless—an institution instead of a home? Is it a graveyard of records and reports, of books that no man reads—a perfectly useless “public utility” pointed out to the stray visitor as a town asset but in reality considered a liability?

These questions were faced squarely some twenty odd years ago by a young teacher and librarian, Mary Anna Tarbell, when she first took over the library work in her little home town of Brimfield. This is a remote and isolated New England village, a few miles beyond Springfield, Mass.

A LIBRARY LIKE A HOME

The Brimfield library is more like a comfortable house—home rather—than a public building. It is a charming little cottage built out of field stones and set amidst friendly apple trees by the side of the road. One shaggy old tree leans against the library's broad, sloping roof and peers into its open door, dropping red apples—if it's October time—to the neighbors who troop in.

THE VILLAGE HEARTHSTONE

THE VILLAGE HEARTHSTONE

Everybody comes, grown folks and children, teachers and housekeepers, and farmers and dairymen—in their overalls. The bright open fire seems to draw them. For during autumn, winter and spring—and on chill evenings in the summer time—a cheerful fire burns in the cozy, wide-windowed reading room, and the group of friends and neighbors draw their chairs about the hearthstone and talk at will. This hearthstone is a single slab of stone—a Titan's handful—got out of a field nearby and drawn by oxen to the old orchard where it was set before the great fireplace, then in the making. The whole library is built around it in spirit as in fact. Everywhere today in Brimfield they speak of the library as the "village hearthstone."

Because this friendly aspect of its library had already drawn together all of the neighboring farmers, Brimfield was selected in April of 1915 by the United States Department of Agriculture, cooperating with the agricultural colleges of Massachusetts, for its first station for the demonstration of improved housekeeping methods. This marked the pioneer effort of the United States Government to assist women in rural homes. Its offer made to the women of Brimfield to furnish the services of an expert in home economics to act as a home making advisor was eagerly accepted.

GOVERNMENT HOME MAKING

"There were thirty of us at the first conference in the library" said a farmer's wife whose housekeeping and dairy duties have been materially lightened as a result of this demonstration of six years ago. "And we brought our older girls to the next meetings. I must say, too, that although most of us considered ourselves pretty good housekeepers, we certainly had our eyes opened by that lady the government sent as an advisor."

As a result of this first Home Making Conference a permanent home-making advisor was appointed by the county and a monthly conference is conducted in the Brimfield library. This group of farmers' wives have established rural district nursing throughout the county; have developed an organized plan for having a hot dish with school lunches in the center schools; started classes in basketry and community canning enterprises. A Red Cross branch was also initiated at this village hearthstone.

A quite different picture from this mothers' group is that of the Brimfield farmers whose relation with the library had come about

THE VILLAGE HEARTHSTONE

gradually through its distribution of leaflets and books on agricultural matters and through the meetings of the Hampden County Improvement League held there at regular intervals. One night in the dead of the winter at least fifty farmers gathered in the reading room of the library with its classical decorations on the wall and art rugs on the floor, to listen to talks on what? The home-mixing of fertilizers and the cooperative buying of chemical ingredients! There in the village hearthstone, before the crackling fire, "The Brimfield Farmers' Cooperative Exchange" was organized. This is a buying and selling association, the first cooperative organization incorporated in Massachusetts since the passing in 1913 of the legislative act making special provision for such agricultural corporations. Thus the library became indeed a road breaker.

"I ain't much for books," one old farmer said, "this fireplace is the best thing about the library for me." Nevertheless, books and papers in easy reach on the table, are picked up, glanced over, "and this slight acquaintance," says Miss Tarbell, "invariably arouses the desire to read books at home. In the political discussions and arguments about local history which invariably spring up among the farmers the consultation of authorities and writers stimulates thought and discussion."

LOCAL ACHIEVEMENTS EXHIBITED

An interesting by-product of the farmers' meetings was the chance discovery of Miss Tarbell that a Brimfield farmer living a secluded life on one of the hills was experimenting with the culture of choice grapes. Accordingly—she decided to hold a special exhibition so that the entire town might become acquainted with this local happening. Samples of each variety of grapes with "prize apples" from the farmers interested in these forms of fruit culture were gathered together. The reading room table was cleared of its photographs and art books and clusters of nearly thirty varieties of select grapes, purple, red, white and green, arranged on the curling grape leaves took their place. It was a revelation to the people of Brimfield—who at the last were permitted to eat the luscious fruit—that such an enterprise was going on right in their own community. Not only did they learn by means of this exhibition that a valuable experiment in grape culture was being undertaken by a townsman, but they also obtained knowledge concerning the most desirable varieties of grapes to set out in their own lands. This exhibition suggested another, that of grasses found on the Sherman farm and

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collected by Mr. Sherman's daughter, Dora. Over seventy varieties were shown, one of which, a bunch of herds-grass, measured five feet six inches in height. An exhibition of Indian relics gathered by the Plimpton boys and their father followed this and was important not only for its historical value, but also, as Miss Tarbell said to us, "as a sign of the skillful pursuit of a line of research and collecting by a family in town." The collection included not only implements of the chase and war, but relics of domestic life, of sports, and ceremonies and of various utilities, all revealing the primitive Indian life. Another exhibition, illustrating an experiment in reforestation made by the Principal of the Hitchcock Free Academy, comprised seeds and seedlings of pine, spruce and catalpa, together with cones.

EACH AND ALL

"The sole value of a library lies in its relatedness to individuals, to interests and to movements, to the other institutions of the town and to the town as a whole," says Miss Tarbell. "A successful public library is not an institution in itself or for itself. In a small town the library can come into close touch with all the people and their interests. It can help in all lines of progress; it can help to unify interests in a common purpose for the public good. In various ways—by collection, by photographs, by exhibitions, as well as by documents, and printed matter, it should furnish signs of what the people care for, from art to applegrowing and from local history to reforestation. By its relation to all kinds of progress as well as by the addition and circulation of good books the library may grow in influence as a center of town spirit and of local loyalty."

Exhibits of the various traveling libraries, and the picture and photograph displays, such as all libraries now have, came to Brimfield before they ventured to other places. The first one ever prepared on a single subject by the Woman's Education Association was for the Village Hearthstone, some fifteen years ago.

A TRAVELING LIBRARY BEGINS

"These photographs were received with delight," said Miss Tarbell. "They illustrated outstanding events in American history and aroused eager interest. I felt especially happy to have them attract the town boys during Saturday evenings. As for the books, I offered them wherever I thought they would be read and carried the photographs to neighbors' homes after library hours as people

THE VILLAGE HEARTHSTONE

take their knitting. The next year we had a traveling library on Florence, then one on Shakespeare, on English architecture, and later, one on Rome. We started winter study circles of all ages and of both men and women many years ago."

Not only do the pictures in these traveling libraries serve to bring to the far away village in the lonely Massachusetts hills, views of the old world art and architecture, of romance cities and of far-famed historic places, but exhibitions of local pictures also commemorate the ever changing beauties of landscape, forest, hill and lake, in and around Brimfield itself. Here is a snapshot of the local bee-man taking an unusual amount of honey from a hive; here is a hayfield with an uncommon crop of hay; here is a prize group of Holstein cattle together with pictures of a model dairy.

HISTORIC DOCUMENTS ON VIEW

Nor are historic old documents of local interest forgotten, old books and relics, among which is a homespun, bluechecked, cotton handkerchief in which the founder of the Hitchcock Academy at Brimfield carried all of his belongings, when as a poor boy he left the village and went forth to seek his fortune. Personal relics, mementos and belongings of other Brimfield men of long ago form a bond to unite the town to its descendants.

Doubtless no other library in this country—and certainly not in the old world—has stepped out of the printed page, away from the written law of library usage and custom to the degree the Brimfield Public Library has.

Years ago, Joseph Lee, who was dreaming out just this kind of community service, learned of the Brimfield library and went out to see for himself. Through the Massachusetts Civic League he spread its message far and wide. Certain of its ideals and practices Mr. Lee brought into the making of the Town Room of Boston and some of these in turn are being passed by him into Community Service, the national organization which exists to assist American communities in making the leisure time of their citizens more valuable and more expressive through community recreation.

Thus some phases of the work done more than a generation past by Mary Anna Tarbell and the Village Hearthstone are reaching today far beyond the blue horizon of the Brimfield hills.

THE WIDER FIELD

The design on the library's book plate, true to its theory and

THE GIFT OF THE AGES

to its practice of holding fast to the town's own gifts, is "Steerage Rock" with the legend, "Books Give the Far View."

"Steerage Rock" is an immense boulder resting on the highest point of land in Brimfield, a loftier viewpoint than Mount Tom itself. In the original Bay Path, the route taken by the pioneer settlers of the Connecticut Valley in their journey from the Bay, this land mark was the point by which the Indians and pioneer settlers alike steered their course through the valley of the Connecticut River on their journey westwards. And the Brimfield Public Library stands—just so—among the libraries and community centers of America . . . a Steerage Rock.

The Gift of the Ages

Probably 18,000 persons, among whom were the delegates to the 21st Annual Convention of the American Association of Park Superintendents, witnessed the Seventh Annual Pageant of the Detroit Department of Recreation, on Thursday afternoon, August 25th. So large was the crowd of spectators and children, that the bleachers were over-crowded and many stood on the benches and crowded other points of vantage, climbed trees and found perches on nearby monuments and fountains on beautiful Belle Isle.

The pageant, entitled *The Gift of the Ages*, depicted in a colorful manner the growth of play and recreation through history. The spectacle was divided into three episodes. These episodes—Ancient—Mediaeval—Modern,—represented periods in history, and the children appearing were beautifully costumed to picture faithfully the recreations of that period.

The pageant required a large number of children of whom there were over 3,000, and each child made his own costume under the direction of play leaders of the Department of Recreation. A regular camp of tents was erected adjoining the pageant ground in which the children changed their costumes.

The children were transported to Belle Isle by trucks, generously furnished by the various manufacturers of the City of Detroit, showing the spirit of cooperation which they give to the Municipal Recreation Department.

The pageant was given under the auspices of the Department of Recreation, C. E. Brewer, Commissioner, with Miss Lottie A. McDermott, Supervisor of Women's and Girls' Activities in Detroit, in charge of the pageant.

A Community Building in a Small Town

Located approximately fifteen miles from Lincoln, Illinois, is Emden, a town of 500 people. Though small in population, Emden does not lack in community spirit. Last spring the town dedicated a community building erected at a cost of \$50,000 which is contributing more and more to community life. There is seldom a night during the week when the building is not being used for some kind of social affair or for moving pictures.

The American Legion has its headquarters in a room which extends entirely across the south side of the basement. Here the members have installed two pool tables and are purchasing other furnishings as funds permit. The auditorium is well adapted for games, especially indoor baseball, basketball and volley ball. An athletic club, a direct outgrowth of the community house, was recently organized and games have been arranged in several branches of sport.

The community house is used not only by the townspeople but by those in the surrounding country. Such organizations as the Tazewell County Federation of Women's Clubs make use of the house for their annual meetings and luncheons.

Since the erection of the house great impetus has been given school athletics, since the school has been handicapped by lack of a place in which to practice or play games. A portion of the balcony is also used as recitation and study rooms for a number of the grades. The community house is therefore serving to some degree as an extension school.

Emden is benefiting by the Community Service program established in Lincoln, one of the recreation specialists having conducted several recreation classes for the people of Emden.

Training for Leisure

In an editorial entitled "Training for Leisure" the New York Times in its October 3rd issue says:

ANCIENT GREECE TRAINED FOR LEISURE

"This time of abnormal unemployment and enforced leisure is a good time to call renewed attention to the use of leisure. The importance of preparation for its profitable use was emphasized over

TRAINING FOR LEISURE

two thousand years ago by Aristotle, who insisted that the right use of leisure was the chief end of education. But in the Greece of his time this meant the education of only one-fourth of the population, who had all the leisure. They were the leisured class. Naturally, their education was all or chiefly for leisure use. The other three-fourths, the working class, had no leisure at all, and no education. But a practical business man in Michigan has reached this same Aristotelian conclusion, out of his experience and observation in an automobile town, where everybody works when there is work, and where everybody has leisure—most of the population of late producing on a five-hour schedule.

MODERN MICHIGAN SEES THE SAME SOLUTION

"In the current number of *The Atlantic Monthly* this pragmatic gentleman traces the conditions attending the increasing use of the automatic and semi-automatic machine, and notes the collateral effects. One of these is that '70 per cent of the workers in an automatized plant can be brought to efficient production in three days or less.' The need of vocational training for these is slight. Knowledge may release some from the machine, but as automatization proceeds to its logical conclusion this escape will be more difficult. Education therefore becomes profitable chiefly to the extent that it helps them to the right use of leisure. Another effect, in considerable measure realized, is the likelihood 'that, viewing the country as a whole, industry will have to adjust itself to eight hours or fewer, probably fewer.' The conclusion reached is identical with that of Aristotle, except that it is based on conditions in Flint, Michigan, A. D. 1921, instead of in Athens, Greece, in the fourth century B. C. It is that 'in a town dominated by automatized machinery the educational problem is to train youth for the right use of leisure.'

"There are two corollaries by *The Atlantic* contributor, supported by general experience, which attend this conclusion: One is that it is immensely more difficult to train human beings for life and leisure than it is for toil; and the other is that 'only odd and unusual persons get very much out of leisure.'

THE NOBLE EMPLOYMENT OF LEISURE

"Dr. Samuel Johnson once said that the reason why so many men took to drink was that they were not interesting enough to themselves in their hours of leisure to get on without it. The mass

WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR?

of men with greater leisure at their command have now new reason, in this country at least, to make themselves more interesting to themselves. What they need, says this practical man from Michigan, beyond the negative virtues of self-restraint and thrift, is something to give life meaning and leisure inspiration—'a reasonable concern in all that man has done, is doing or is about to do upon the planet.' A few mornings ago, as late as ten o'clock, several score of able-bodied men were lying in Bryant Park unoccupied, dissatisfied, incapable of entertaining themselves. A few steps away was a library, which thousands are eager to find enough leisure to frequent, but which none of these had an interest to enter. They had not been educated to use 'reasonably and gloriously the growing leisure which the common use of automatic machinery has in store for humanity.'"

Who Is My Neighbor?

In Elizabeth, N. J., foreign born people of forty different nationalities and native Americans found out that they were neighbors at a "League of Neighbors" meeting sponsored by the Community Service Council. They found out that they were neighbors in their interest in the city of Elizabeth and in their love of music.

The program began with community singing followed by musical numbers given by different foreign groups. A Portuguese string orchestra of ten pieces gave four numbers; the "Italian neighbors" contributed songs; the Hungarians sang folk songs and gave a folk dance; the United Singers of Elizabeth, a male chorus of thirty-seven voices, sang German songs. The Ukrainian chorus from the Catholic Orthodox Church sang folk songs in their native tongue. The leader of the Lithuanians sang a solo. The Daughters of Italy and the Daughters of Scotia contributed musical numbers and a Scotch girl danced the Highland Fling. One of the hits of the evening were the negro spirituals and revival songs sung by the combined choirs of five colored churches.

A drill by Y. W. C. A. girls, a drill by Girl Scouts and an exhibition of fire making with steel and flint by the Boy Scouts added variety to the program. Among the other organizations represented were the Boudinot Chapter of the D. A. R., Ladies Auxiliary of the Bayway Joint Conference of the Standard Oil Company and several lodges and fraternal organizations.

Short speeches were made by the district court judge, rabbi of

THE CALL OF BEAUTY

the Jewish Temple, and the Chairman of the Community Service Membership Committee.

The Call of Beauty

As one visits small towns in America one is impressed by much unnecessary ugliness. The principal memory of one small place I visited several years ago is the quantity of tin cans scattered all over the city. Often the railroad approach to the city is most unsightly.

Despite all the ugliness of our cities that might be avoided there is at least a certain period in every boy's and every girl's life when beauty has a most unusual appeal. Ought it not to be possible somehow for Community Service during these adolescent years when there is such a response to the ideal of beauty to be able to utilize this yearning for beauty to good practical opportunity for Community Service in making the young boy's own home and yard and surroundings more beautiful and helping also in keeping the vacant lots in the neighborhood more attractive? Is it not possible also for the boys and girls who have left school to be given opportunity to see some of the beautiful paintings, to hear some of the beautiful music, to listen to spoken words which satisfy the craving for beauty in such a way that the yearnings for beauty which are formed at the adolescent period shall be carried over into later life?

Ought every Community Service organization to have camera clubs? If boys and girls become interested in taking beautiful pictures, if exhibits are arranged for the best pictures taken, if some recognition is given to the person securing the best pictures, is all this likely to lead to a greater appreciation of beauty and to a greater interest in all that is beautiful? We ought constantly to be thinking of ways in which we can help to develop appreciation of the beautiful.

Thousands of men and women pass most beautiful scenes in nature without realizing their beauty simply because they have never been thrilled by seeing some other individual's keen enjoyment in them. Appreciation of beauty is something which can be taught. Our own range of appreciation and understanding is constantly being increased by touch with some person of wider vision and the richest possible civilization can only be secured where there is a complete community sharing of ideals of beauty.

H. S. BRAUCHER

Our National Play Analyzed by a Psychologist

In an article entitled "The Psychology of Recreation," published in the September 24th issue of *The Survey*, Mr. G. T. Patrick discusses the value of our so-called national sports as adequate recreation.

"Now our national sports, so called, such as baseball and football are, from the standpoint of the psychology of recreation, of the very highest value. They conform to all the requirements of good play. They are out of doors. They involve the larger, fundamental muscles of the body. They rest the fine muscles of the eye and the fingers. They permit of self-expression and rivalry and contest. They involve brain tracts which are racially old and easy and familiar.

Golf and Tennis Valuable

"In a still higher degree does golf conform to the laws of valuable recreation. It has all the elements of good play. One returns from an afternoon at golf renewed and refreshed. It is suitable both for men and women of all ages. Nothing better could happen than the extension of the opportunities for golf to a far larger number of our people. But the practical difficulties are evident. Much the same may be said of tennis. Its rank is very high and the difficulties in making it more general are not quite so great.

"Almost if not equally high in recreational value stands another large class of pastimes such as hunting, fishing, camping, hiking, canoeing, swimming, skating. These are perfect sports with a high restorative value. Extended opportunity for them will conduce greatly to social welfare. The recently revived interest in swimming is a hopeful sign of the times, though it is an unhappy incident of this sport that the sex and dress factors have become so prominent. The renewed general interest in all forms of outing and physical culture is a source of satisfaction to all who realize that our high pressure modern life must be relieved by healthful forms of recreation and relaxation.

Too Many People Have No Real Recreation

"But after all is said about the revived interest in these healthful forms of outdoor recreation, it still remains true that the actual daily recreations of our hundred million people fall into other classes. If it were possible to apply the statistical method here, we should discover that other forms of recreation occupy most of our leisure

OUR NATIONAL PLAY ANALYZED

time. Social intercourse would perhaps be found to take the most of this time, and although it is often of the most trivial character still it serves the purpose of recreation after a fashion, relieving the stress upon the higher brain centers which are severely taxed in our work. Light reading perhaps would come next, which taxes the eyes but usually not the mind, and is altogether inferior in recreational value even to social intercourse."

Movies Fail as Recreation!

Moving pictures have come in our modern life at a most important time. "For a reading, writing and sedentary people it is a calamity that the movies are one of our chief recreations. . . . If, as it is estimated, fifteen to twenty thousand people attend the movies daily in the United States it is evident that this has become our national recreation. It extends to city and country, throughout the year, to old and young of both sexes. And yet, this universal and attractive form of play fails to meet nearly all the requirements of sound and wholesome recreation either for children or adults.

"The automobile probably comes next in popularity. Our eight million motor cars are to a considerable extent devoted to pleasure riding. Each carrying several people, young and old, they provide a very large number with their principal recreation. What, then, is the value of the automobile as measured by the psychology of play? For those whose daily work keeps them on their feet or confined within the house, shop or office, it brings a change of scene, an outing and a certain form of self-expression, the latter depending upon the individuality of the car and its speed. Speed itself has a curious recreational value, due probably to age-old racial associations, for speed resulting in capture or escape often determined individual survival. But for the average man the automobile works just the wrong way. It robs him of that small remaining time still spent in walking, which physically is his salvation. During man's long history upon the earth, he has lived upon his feet. A walking, running, climbing, swimming race is becoming a sitting, reclining, and riding race and its extinction is probable unless this can be corrected. The automobile, with its yielding cushions, upholstered back and delicate springs, is a form of recreation 'for those who live softly,' in Roosevelt's telling phrase, and those who live softly will not as families live long."

Folk Dancing Commended

In speaking of the dance, Mr. Patrick decries the undesirable elements which have entered into social dancing, robbing it of so much of its rec-

OUR NATIONAL PLAY ANALYZED

reational value. He commends highly, however, the revived interest in folk dancing and the aesthetic element in dancing.

"What is the recreational value of the dance as tested by psychological laws? At first sight it seems to meet all the requirements. It involves only the larger, fundamental muscles of the trunk and legs. Anthropologically it is the oldest of all forms of recreational activity. Only the lower and older brain centers are used, the rythmical bodily response being very primitive and natural. The fine muscles of the eye and hand are completely rested. A tired and tense people finds a peculiar release in the dance. In itself, dancing is a perfect form of recreation. The revived interest in folk dancing is therefore a movement in the direction of healthful recreation, and the introduction of aesthetic dancing in the public school would seem to be conducive to social welfare.

**Encourage the
Enjoyment
of Beauty**

"The aesthetic element in dancing still remains one of its redeeming features, and in this connection it should be said that aesthetic enjoyment in general is a form of recreation and relaxation that should be encouraged in every way. It is a great pity that the quiet enjoyment of beauty, whether of music, poetry, or the graphic and plastic arts, has so small a place in our American life. Nothing would so completely relieve the stress and strain of our rushing world as the production and enjoyment of works of art. Art has a soothing and tranquillizing influence which we in America greatly need. We pride ourselves quite properly on the rapid advance made in recent years in our architecture, sculpture, painting, and music and in the introduction of art study and art appreciation in our public schools, but we do not always reflect upon the small part which the enjoyment of the beautiful actually plays in the daily lives of our millions of people. The more that we come to understand that our social problems will not be solved by the making of new laws and the discovery of new political institutions but by the gaining of health and harmony in ourselves as individuals, the more we shall understand the vital need of healthful recreation of every kind. The craving for excitement in our American life is probably only apparent. What we crave is something to restore the nervous balance threatened by the intense application which modern life involves."

Is Too Busy to Indulge in Play*

POLAND, UNLIKE OTHER COUNTRIES, LACKS NATIONAL PASTIME

Must a nation have a "national pastime"? That's a question (one of many, to be sure) that confronts Poland at present. For unless splashing around in the "ole swimming hole" can be classed as a national sport, Poland today cannot claim a universally popular outdoor game. So writes the Weekly Bulletin of the Polish Bureau of Information.

Not the least of the charges—from an American or English point of view—that the reborn nation might make against the Russian, German and Austrian governments is that they handed back the country without a single golf course. The Poles, however, are largely unconscious of the magnitude of this outrage. Nevertheless, the new Poland, in common with other European states, has given indications that it recognizes the value to a nation of outdoor sports. Though official encouragement has been given, the government has not yet gone as far as France, where a national director of sports has been appointed.

POWERS INTRODUCED NO SPORTS

As the people of Poland had no opportunity for free expression during the more than 130 years of foreign oppression, athletics, in common with other national activities, remained undeveloped. Not one of the partitioning powers introduced any games, unless Russia's strenuous efforts to popularize hikes to Siberia be so classified.

That baseball will become popular in Poland seems very unlikely. The chief criticism against the American sport seems to be that there are too few participants and too many onlookers. When a Pole wants outdoor recreation he wants to be in the game, not in the stand. So if baseball makes its way to Poland the chances are it will get no further than the sandlots.

TENNIS IS POPULAR

The foregoing is not intended to give the impression that Poland is a nation wholly without knowledge of athletic competition. Tennis is very popular, being played in nearly all towns

*From Globe and Commercial Advertiser, October 7, 1921

CAMP FOR TOURISTS

and cities. In fact, there are Poles in the United States who believe that Poland has tennis players who would add considerable interest to international matches of the Davis Cup variety.

Rugby is well known in Poland. It is popular in the schools and colleges. Before the war a Scotch rugby team toured Poland and found many teams that were able to provide stiff competition. With the resumption of peace time activities it is possible that rugby may become the universal intercollegiate sport of Poland.

Camps for Tourists

The reports presented at the convention of the American Institute of Park Executives in Detroit showed an increasing emphasis on the provision of tourists' camps through park departments.

Almost every city in Wisconsin, Mr. C. B. Whitnall, of Milwaukee, reported, is making preparation for tourists' camps. About five come to the Milwaukee camp every day. There is a growing sentiment throughout the state that tourists should be provided for by the city.

The tourists' camp of Danville, Illinois, described by Mr. R. A. Skoglund, has accommodations for 60 people and accommodates travelers going both north and south. It was found necessary to have the camp located on a good road and near a water supply. The park is policed until 10:30 p. m. and there is an electric alarm which protects the tourists if they need it after that time. The experience in Danville has been that in giving the people this degree of service the park system in the community is receiving a great boost.

The tourists' camp of Hibbing, Minnesota, has been very successful, as many as 150 tourists a week being accommodated there. The camp provides everything, according to Mr. C. B. Wolfe, which the tourists can wish. Two young men who know the city well direct the tourists to the camp. Each tourist is required to register.

At Tulsa, Oklahoma, the park department provides a house with six cots as well as toilets and bath. The provision of a bath has made this camp very popular. A record is kept of everyone who stays at the camp and the tourists are asked to check in and check out when leaving.

In Cincinnati the Board of Park Commissioners, Mr. C. H.

COMMUNITY WORK

Meeds pointed out, furnished some property near a park where there has been erected a small laundry, toilets and similar facilities. The place is properly policed and the tourists are asked to register.

Mr. V. Grant Forrer of Harrisburg described the tourists' camp conducted by that city as having a rest room and all facilities for the tourists. Though many of the travelers carry stoves with them the park department has provided a number of fireplaces. There is a cozy room which is particularly popular with tourists having children.

Mr. H. W. Bush of Detroit suggested the possibility of charging a nominal fee for tourists stopping at camps. A charge of this sort, Mr. Bush pointed out, would help to pay the cost of operating it.

Community Work

One of the leaders in public life in America recently stated that "the best social welfare worker is the man or woman who lives righteously and does the task well which he or she is most capable of doing." In the discussion following it was pointed out that "social work is undertaken to remedy errors, to undo mistakes, to help misfit individuals."

In the past a considerable part of social work has been done to correct mistakes. Much must be done in the future along the same line. The task of Community Service, however, is building for the future. Even if there were no misfits, even if each man and each woman were living righteously, even if all poverty had been abolished, there would be the same craving on the part of individuals in the community to come into relation with each other, to use their leisure time so as to build for a better future, not only for themselves individually and for their families, but also for the entire neighborhood and the entire country. No man can live in a vacuum no matter how perfect the conditions in that vacuum might be. Life itself, insofar as it has value, is made up of relationships; the richer these relationships, the more worth while the life. Community Service strives to make the relationships of life more worth while, to give all people an opportunity to share in their leisure time in working out the vital problems of the world in which they are living. Community Service deals with the future and not with the past. It is primarily building not repairing.

Vacations and Vocations*

Elbert Hubbard once wrote an essay on Vacations, in which he expressed the idea that people do not need vacations. A man ought to live each day in such a well-balanced healthful way, he contended, that his vitality would not become so exhausted as to demand a respite. It is work, not vacationing, that makes life endurable. But work with tired bodies and uninspired souls is not endurable. Moreover, this puts one in such a fagged state that a two weeks' vacation can bring neither pleasure nor good physical results. Both work and play in this case are unendurable. The only man who really enjoys an outing, then, is the man who does not need one.

There is a practical message in this thought. Many of us are forced to fill our days with concentrated indoor work. As the weeks drag along toward summer and our bodies become wearier and wearier, we comfort ourselves with the words: "Oh, well, pretty soon we'll build ourselves up again." We forget that the poor body which has had fifty weeks of hectic living cannot be built up in two weeks. The body needs fifty-two weeks of sensible living, and then it will be ready for work or for play.

Twenty-five to forty-four are the years when the most work is accomplished. Yet it is during this fruitful period that tuberculosis takes its largest death toll. Nearly everybody has been infected with the tuberculosis germ. Persons in childhood acquire the germ but it remains dormant until a weakened condition due to sickness, worry or unusual physical strain transforms it into an active case. If men would only cease living fifty exhausting weeks in the anticipation of a two weeks' vacation there would not be so many weakened systems as easy preys for germs.

There are five ways by which the body may be kept healthy and have fifty-two weeks of sensible living. These are: (1) plenty of sleep; (2) good nourishing food; (3) fresh out-door air day and night; (4) regular exercise; (5) watchful knowledge of one's physical condition through having periodic examinations by a physician. They are inexpensive and easy enough to introduce into one's daily life. They will go far toward putting the man or woman into fine trim for enjoying a good vacation when it comes.

* Provided for THE PLAYGROUND by The National Tuberculosis Association.

LEGION SERVICE AT HOME

The National Tuberculosis Association and its 1200 affiliated agencies carry on an educational campaign to teach and help persons to live such healthy lives that tuberculosis germs will cease to find so many weakened systems in which to lodge. Help them in their campaign through buying and selling Health Seals at Christmas.

Legion Service at Home*

The report made last week at the convention of the Legion of New York State is one that suggests the growing worth of the Legion posts to the communities in which they are organized, quite outside of what they do for their own members. There are a thousand such posts in this State alone. Some of their patriotic activities are illustrated by this list, not of suggestions but of things done: In one county, visiting over 2,000 foreign-born adults to explain opportunities for instruction in the schools; in another, assisting in maintaining night schools for adults, and in many, furnishing leaders for Boy Scout troops. It is estimated that 600 members of the Legion are now acting as Boy Scout leaders.

The resolutions unanimously adopted by the Legion are prophetic of an even more active participation in the promotion of respect on the part of all for the flag, and acquaintance, especially on the part of adult newcomers, with American institutions. These resolutions urge that every child be taught the use and care of the flag; that every effort be made to collect and preserve local material relating to the great war; that every possible cooperation be given in aid of the Boy Scout training as of "exceptional value in developing fine character and good citizenship," and, finally, that arrangements be made to furnish information regarding the arrival of immigrant aliens who give their destination as New York State, so that the authorities may come into contact with these immigrants immediately upon their arrival in local communities and induce them to study English and to prepare for American citizenship.

The posts are indeed "paying back" to their respective communities, in patriotic and civic service, the small investment which these communities have made in housing them. If posts were purchasable, it would pay some communities to buy a Legion post.

* N. Y. Times, Oct. 1921

Team Organization

IN A WINTER PLAY CENTER FOR BOYS

Mr. A. P. Le Quesne of Coventry, England, impressed with the possibilities of team-work and self-government in the class room, has devised a plan whereby this same team spirit was developed during the past winter among boys ten to fourteen years of age in the Spon Street Play Center in Coventry.

Three weeks after the Center was opened a general meeting of the boys was called. They were told that they were invited by the Education Committee to come to the center three evenings a week—that they were expected to enjoy themselves and behave themselves, as if they had been invited to a party by some other boy's parents—that the play center was their own "show" and the sooner they could run it themselves the better. "Play the Game" was chosen as the center's motto.

The Teams

The boys were divided into three teams, the three members of the School Staff being their respective presidents. The names of these teams—The Gaieties, The Jesters and The Stars—kindled the imagination and aroused the interest of the boys. Each team was to sport its own colors on shield fight days and to have its own motto.

The Officials

They were also to elect their own officials who would hold office for a month or so until a Shield Tournament had taken place, when they might be re-elected if they had given satisfaction. Eleven team officials were chosen. The duty of the Captain, the chief official, to whom all other officials were responsible, was to see that all his boys were happy and kept busy. The General Secretary was the Captain's right hand man who took the Captain's place when he was absent. (It was interesting, however, that two of the Captains were never absent and the other only once.)

The Athletics Secretary was responsible for boxing, wrestling and other physical exercises.

The Social Secretary was in charge of parlor games and was on the alert for the best players to enter the Shield Tournament.

The Artists' Secretary was responsible for the drawing and painting.

The Mechanics' and Handbook Secretary was responsible for

TEAM ORGANIZATION

the Woodwork and Metal work, watching his team's progress also in Cardboard, Modelling, Fretwork, Toymaking, Raffia work and Rug making.

The Librarian was responsible for keeping books and periodicals in order and encouraging boys to bring magazines to the center.

The Notice Secretary was responsible for putting up notices respecting his team. The officials after election were called by their titles, and each before accepting office was asked to sign a letter pledging loyalty and stating a knowledge of responsibility of his office. Each official took turns on "Room Duty."

Mr. Le Quesne felt that "policemen" was a poor title for play center officers, so instead of electing policemen, each team elected three *whips* who reprimanded any boy who did anything to let his team or the play center down. Bad cases were reported to the Captain, who had power to make any offender appear before a full committee of all officials to answer any charge against him. Only two complaints were brought to the team president to settle.

In addition to the elected officials groups of boys did their bit toward running the center by moving the desks and chairs from the class rooms so that the rooms might be used at night.

Competition was held for a Play Center Shield design and 60 were submitted for inspection.

The Shield

The artist of the center was asked to draw it

and it was fastened to a board two feet square and divided into three sections to represent the three teams. In The Gaieties section was a drawing of two young dancers and the motto, "Always Merry and Bright." The Stars were represented by two energetic boxers and the motto, "Never Despair" and The Jesters by a clown with the motto, "Keep on Smiling." Above the shield appeared the play center motto, "Play the Game" and in a border round the shield were various small shields announcing the winners of the various shield tournaments. The shield was the center's own—designed and made by it and hung on the wall only to be brought down by the President when he handed it over to the proud Captain of the successful team after a Shield Tournament.

Tournaments were held at monthly intervals, usually lasting four evenings as each team representative had to play three games. As a rule

The Tournaments

First Heats took place on one night, semi-finals on the second, finals and the Exhibition of Work on the third and Athletic Sports on the fourth.

MUNICIPAL FOOTBALL

More points were given for skilled work than for mere games of chance. In woodwork, metal work, fretwork, raffia work, drawing and painting, rug making, toy making and cobbling, the points were awarded to the three best exhibits in each class, irrespective of teams. For other events, the teams entered their champions, the teams being responsible for the selection. The total number of points awarded in each event was exactly divisible by three in case of a draw and the boy defeated by his two opponents was always awarded a few points. Although defeated, he still felt that he had at all events gained a few points for his team. The cheering at the final nights always showed the fine esprit de corps which existed. "Rivalry without malice" was the rule in the tournaments and the boys were encouraged to win like men or lose like gentlemen.

Mr. Le Quesne says in closing, "With this system, there is no outsider. Each boy feels that he is a member of a large family and that he has been admitted into a society of his peers, where he must give and take, where he must minimize his own selfishness, where he can learn to despise a list of things a decent sport won't do, and perhaps above all that, make some happy friendships which will ever be precious and dear to him."

Municipal Football

At the convention of the American Institute of Park Executives held at Detroit in July, W. F. Fox, Director of Municipal Athletics of the Park Department of Minneapolis, described the development of municipal football in that city.

The progressive cooperative policy of the Board of Park Commissioners of Minneapolis has made it possible for the Recreation Department to complete an efficient year-round organization, including every branch of sport. Particularly notable has been the development of the game of football, a sport which had until 1916 been played on the vacant lots of the city on an intermittent "first come, first served" basis with no supervision or official restraint. In 1916 the Recreation Department adopted the football game of the vacant lots as a recreational activity and organized 25 teams into various divisions, transferring the games to the public playgrounds throughout the park system. Gridirons were marked out, goal posts erected, schedules drafted, officials appointed, supervision established and the games enclosed with wire cable. Very

MUNICIPAL FOOTBALL

soon the games showed marked improvement, disputes and disorders gradually disappearing and attendance increasing.

Method of Development

The method employed in the development of the municipal football in Minneapolis is as follows: About October 1st the football league is

organized. The various managers assemble their own players, the teams representing community center interests, social clubs and athletic associations. The players are required to weigh in at the Recreation Department and each player signs a registration card. After all the teams are weighed in the total weight is computed and divided by 17, the player limit allowed for each team. Equalized team weights are established from 100 pounds in the light weight class to 160 pounds in the heavy weight class. The playing ages range from 12 years up. The teams having similar weights are grouped into divisions of 6 or 8 clubs and classified as the 100 pounds, 105 pounds and upward to the heavy weight division. Schedules are drawn to meet the requirements of each division. Players signed with one team cannot play with another until released. Officials are appointed by the director in charge. Players are requested to sign the official's game reports and the signatures must correspond with the players' registration cards on file in the Recreation Department. Should a manager use an ineligible player the game is automatically forfeited to the opponent. Any impairment of the sportsmanship code or disorderly conduct is reported on the official's report and receives immediate attention from the director in charge. A letter sent to the offending player is usually a sufficient curb to further annoyance. Officials are given absolute control of the game with instructions to enforce the playing rules and maintain proper discipline. The park police cooperate with the playing officials and an atmosphere prevails at the games which reflects dignified authority and promotes enjoyment of the game.

Owing to the large number of teams competing, schedules are arranged for a dual assignment of games on each gridiron. The light weight team which plays at two o'clock is followed by the heavy weight team at three o'clock, the same officials taking charge of both games. The schedules also provide home and away games for each team and the games are played on the 19 gridirons in different parts of the city, thereby affording neighborhood recreational service throughout the park system. Enthusiasm over the sport is promoted by the generous publicity given the games by the press.

A LANTERN PARADE

In 1920 seventy-four teams appeared on the roster of the league. This record number of teams was classified into 11 divisions with a schedule requirement of 230 games. Fourteen hundred players competed and every team was uniformed. Thirty punctual and efficient officials handled the games with uniform satisfaction. It is estimated that 200,000 people attended—an ample testimony to the local popularity of municipal football.

A Lantern Parade

In the September *PLAYGROUND* there appeared an article on kite tournaments as arranged by the Division of Playgrounds and Sports of the Chicago South Park Commissioners. In writing further about the tournaments Mr. V. K. Brown, Superintendent of Playgrounds and Sports, says:

"We held, a few days ago, a somewhat novel exhibition, which was the most beautiful thing which we have ever done. About two months ago we got out, for use in the dull season between the outdoor and indoor periods, a print illustrating possibilities in the making of highly decorated, variously colored and diversely shaped, paper lanterns. We announced a date for a lantern parade, and offered a prize of five gallons of ice-cream to that park which would put on the best display, from the spectators' viewpoint. The parks were free to incorporate any novelty or attendant feature which, in their opinion, would make a more interesting, entertaining or spectacular feature of their own part in the program. The judges were at liberty to consider anything, making, in their opinion, the affair more successful, in addition to the actual lantern display.

"We had over 600 lanterns, ranging in size from very small ones to one over eight feet in height and six feet in diameter. Some of the Chinese boys in an organization in one of the parks made silk lanterns, which were very beautiful.

"There were a number of novelties; two navy service men worked out a six-foot model battleship, with lattice masts and superimposed gun turrets, with illuminated port holes outlining the hull, and flash lights with red tissue paper transparencies across the ends of the big guns, providing a very realistic appearance of firing the guns, as the ship was carried past the stands. We were fortunate in having at the head of the parade a lad who is a direct descendant of Paul Revere, and he, mounted on a pony, carried the original lantern borne by that Revolutionary hero on his famous ride.

THE SONGLESS COUNTRY

"The girls in one of our parks failed to take up the project, and the boys undertook that park's representation, achieving second place, in the judges' opinion, and providing a display which was very interesting and quite novel. A big feature of this park's display was a fleet of ships, composed of cut-out lithographs, with red and yellow port holes, lights at mastheads, of the Aquitania coming into port, with lithographs they secured from the Cunard office, and which formed the face of an illuminated box. There were fourteen of these, and headed by the battleship, they were carried past the stand between a flashing light house transparency, and one of the Statue of Liberty, with the buildings at its base.

"We used, in the main, only candle light, and in the darkness the lanterns were wonderfully effective. I believe the idea good enough to be copied almost anywhere. Our own purpose in staging it was a dual one; to provide another avenue for handicraft work in our program, and also to fill in the ordinarily dead period of the year constituting the break between a concluded summer program and the beginning of the winter activities. It caught the imagination and enlisted the interest of more people than any innovation which we have yet tried out. Groups seeing children at work making lanterns, actually left their own parties to join in the construction.

The Songless Country

The poet came into a great country in which there were no songs. And he lamented gently for the nation that had not any foolish songs to sing to itself at evening. And at last he said: "I will make for them myself some little foolish songs so that they may be merry in the lanes and happy by the fireside." And for some days he made for them aimless songs such as maidens sing on the hills in the older happier countries.

Then he went to some of that nation as they sat weary with the work of the day and said to them: "I have made you some aimless songs out of the small unreasonable legends, that are somewhat akin to the wind in the vales of my childhood; and you may care to sing them in your disconsolate evenings."

And they said to him: "If you think we have time for that kind of nonsense nowadays you cannot know much of the progress of modern commerce."

And then the poet wept, for he said: "Alas! They are damned."

From *Fifty-One Tales* by Lord Dunsany

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Dancing Benefits Cardiac Patients

Dancing as part of the regular treatment of those convalescing from heart disease was prescribed two years ago by Dr. Frederic Brush, Medical Director of the Burke Foundation, the great institution for the care and treatment of convalescents at White Plains, to which many patients from New York City hospitals and other institutions are sent. The result of this treatment as shown by its effect upon thousands of patients has been amazing, and doubtless will elicit a gasp of astonishment from the uninitiated layman as well as from the physician of the older school.

Dr. Brush says, however, that there have not been any bad results, but on the contrary the exercise has been of great benefit. Modern dancing (ball, contra and folk types) is a valuable form of physical exercise in the reconstructive-convalescent stages of heart disease, he declares. It affords a high degree of needed mental therapy, and advances the patient notably toward social restoration. Experience indicates its safety. It gives an added and readily available test of the cardiac reserve and of progress.

The physician tells about his experience with dancing as a therapeutic agent in Hospital Social Service.

It is of assured advantages, says the physician, to have the exercises pleurably anticipated and enjoyed; and particularly valuable to have them simulate or merge into everyday physical and social activities. Good results of a road hike or short golf or coasting, versus to-and-fro grade walking or of soccer (a kick-about game) as compared with prescribed medicine-ball tossing are soon apparent in practice.

Formal Gymnastics

Formal gymnastics aid by inspiring courage and further exercise, in getting hold of the mild slacker or neurasthenic, and serve well in bad weather times; but in six years' observation of some 3,000 heart convalescents, says Dr. Brush, no regime has given such all-round satisfaction, safety and success as did the old farm regime where a total of nearly 500 cardiacs, boys and young men, were given essential freedom in play and work over the place (under reasonable regulation of rest).

Dancing may be called an inherent activity—of all girls, of

* Courtesy of the New York Times

DANCING BENEFITS CARDIAC PATIENTS

women up to fifty, and of most young and middle-aged men, says the physician; older persons are persistently happy in watching it; it is the most joyous of all play-exercises, and both physically and socially a stimulant.

Convalescents with but a moderate degree of cardiac reserve may begin cautiously to dance, then go on to a considerable indulgence, with safety and benefit, he asserts. The heart patients early led the way in this. Women were found to be dancing in their cottages and boys exhibited various "jig stunts."

The practice was checked, then carefully observed, encouraged and organized; and soon two or three formal dances per week were given, open to patients of all diagnoses and ages. For two seasons past a dancing class for cardiacs under eighteen years has been conducted, under medical and nurse watchfulness, the instruction being given principally by stronger patients of this group.

Class attendance is compulsory as soon as the heart strength is considered adequate. The weaker and more diffident are gradually inducted. Many cardiacs have given special dances in entertainments. This highly diversional exercise is not stressed, but is included in the direction, "to begin to walk, coast, golf, dance, as soon as you feel able." Resident physicians' orders are occasionally given for more or less or none of these various exercises.

How Patients Are Affected

For six months the dancing is out of doors. The spectators, too, are strongly affected for good, Dr.

Brush asserts. One hardly recognizes these patients at such functions; they show color, animation, strength, good posture; pains and neurotic depressions have actually disappeared—and are the less likely to return. "I can dance again!" is a valued expression by patients.

There have been about twenty collapses or partial faints among all the thousands of dancers (30,000 patients cared for). About half of these were in cardiacs and found to be mainly hysterical or neurotic. Some heart patients have complained of increased pain, the day after, but no instance of decompensating has followed. (Decompensation means failure of the heart to increase in power sufficiently to overcome valvular disease.) The pulse rate rises moderately. Many patients express a feeling of benefit from the exercise.

The prohibition with which most patients come is largely the outcome of two misconceptions—that dancing is necessarily and always a strenuous and exhausting exercise, and that one set of

JOSEPH LEE ON HEALTH TEACHING

rules may apply to all heart disease. As a fact, says the physician, short-period dancing as thus practiced (a shuffling, with little weight lifting) is one of the milder exertions.

The hour is often interspersed with other entertainment, and there is much sitting out of the numbers. Furthermore, cardiacs present all degrees of exercise ability and should not sweepingly be deprived of one of life's best diversions, says the physician, and what is for the majority a valuable reconstructive activity.

"I have made considerable inquiry," says Dr. Brush, "among physicians of the broadest experience and have not learned of one instance of sudden death of a cardiac upon the dancing floor nor of heart failure being thought attributable to dancing (novelistic 'heart-break' is understood as excluded). Instances might be brought out, of course; yet this negative is significant in view of the recorded acute heart failures during various other recreations and exercisings. I have, for example, personally known of decompensations from golf, tennis and the innocuous ping-pong.

"The psychoneurotic element is increasingly understood to be important in heart disease, and these patients are advanced in recuperation by the dance's emotional and physical 'setting-up,' the suggestion of normality, the stimulus of dressing and appearing well, and the feeling of rising again out of prohibitions and above social invalidism."

Joseph Lee on Health Teaching*

National Child Health Council

17th and D Streets, N. W.

Washington, D. C.

Gentlemen:

My general feeling is that children ought to be taught the right habits, told that such and such a thing is important, and perhaps that it is important in order to keep well or to succeed in athletics, but mainly ought to be told that this is the way to do, with as little reference to their health as possible. I don't believe that children ought to be brought up as valetudinarians.

The main and most important of all things about health is to do something worth while and forget yourself and your health. I have

* In answer to a request for ways in which health habits could be taught through recreation

JOSEPH LEE ON HEALTH TEACHING

known whole families whose physical condition was continuously and permanently depressed by constant attention upon it. It required a war to cure them and that probably not permanently.

The health habits to be taught from the kindergarten to the sixth grade (up to the age of 12) should be as to food, sleep, bathing, care of the bowels, exercise, brushing their teeth, and clothes, especially not wearing their coats when it is too warm. As to wearing warm clothes until the main heat of the summer is over, especially underclothes, also as to getting one's feet wet, going out in the rain, falling into the water, and other wholesome pursuits—parents are still influenced by the feeling of sacrilege,—that the god will somehow swat you if you show impudence, too great confidence,—what the Greeks called *hubris*; that a cold in the head is a sort of judgment of heaven for having had the cheek to go out without your overcoat.

The nature studies should be of the real interests and intentions of plants and animals, just as the latter are told in Thornton W. Burgess's stories,—not as either of them are told in scientific books. I myself was permanently sterilized as to botany by a fool teacher who taught me that the pistil was composed of the germ, the style and the stigma,—a piece of information which I have unfortunately remembered ever since.

I think methods of fertilization, especially where the bee or some outside party take a hand, give a sense of the wonders of nature almost more than anything else.

I used to sit up nights reading astronomy, and I think the relation of the sun, earth, moon and planets could be taught in about half an hour to most children if it was done in a sensible way. All boys are interested in mechanics except as taught in school.

For children above the sixth grade, either in the elementary or the high school, I think there should be sex instruction, preferably by their parents. I don't know whether it is ever given in school to advantage.

For teachers I think the best preparation for making the children healthy as distinguished from teaching health is that the teacher should himself be thrilled with some particular subject and should teach it so as to give the same feeling to the children.

I believe that health is positive. Fearlessness, loyalty, an interest in games, and some sense of the poetry of life I believe are the main sources of health.

Yours very truly,

(Signed) JOSEPH LEE

Some Rural Community Programs—III

HELEN RAND, Massachusetts State Agricultural College

8. The outskirts in our town
9. New things in our town
10. The most beautiful parts of our town
11. Our best back yards
12. Our best looking streets
13. Our best country roads
14. Trees: where they are of the greatest service and where they could be planted to advantage.
15. Porches in summer
16. Arrangement of kitchens
17. The hanging of pictures on our walls
18. The best room for the family
19. The center of our town
20. Our best business houses
21. Our public buildings
22. Neat streets: where they are neat and where they could be improved
23. The kinds of trees to raise here
24. The kinds of shrubs to plant here
25. The kinds of cattle to raise here
26. The best garden in town
27. The best farm yards
28. The best barns
29. Our pets
30. The birds which live with us
31. Home made furniture

Collection Contest

Children especially are fond of collecting. Contests for them would present methods of teaching special lessons. A few suggestions as to subjects follow: Insects; leaves; mosses; shells; rocks; pine needles; grains; weeds; wild flowers; grasses; garden seeds that would grow here; flower seeds that would grow here; products of our community; garden flowers that would grow here; greens that we might raise and eat here.

SOME RURAL COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

Seeing Beautiful Things Contest

A teacher in a country school in North Dakota taught all her school to see the beauty of the sky and of nature. She offered ten cent prizes to the children who would keep for ten days a little list of the beautiful things they saw. Such a contest might be carried on almost anywhere. It would be more valuable if the contestants named something beautiful and told why it was beautiful.

Debates

In the country there are a great many things to debate and it is usually more advantageous to take subjects near at hand on which it is not difficult to secure material.

Here are some questions that are purely suggestive; their value depends upon their local interest:

1. We should have a community laundry
2. We should keep a community pig
3. The Community Club should run the moving pictures.
4. We should have Sunday baseball games on our field
5. We should have a community ice house
6. We should have a community club for buying seed and fertilizer

Mock Debates

Utterly foolish debates are often the best kind of entertainment and they need not conform to any set rules. Sometimes the names of those who are to take part are not announced until just before the meeting and often the more spontaneous the debate is the better it will be. With some people however, it will be necessary for the debate to be prepared beforehand. Some suggestions offered for mock debates are as follows:

1. A city boy (or girl) is greener in the country than a country boy (or girl) in the city
2. The men with brown eyes do more for the community than those with blue eyes
3. The women of the community should adopt a uniform
4. Green hen roosts are better than yellow ones
5. Automobiles painted orange are better than those painted purple
6. A skunk is worse than a snake.

Contests for Writers and Speakers

Some people are greatly interested in writing essays and giving talks. Very often commercial clubs, school boards, town officials or groups of

SOME RURAL COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

individuals can arouse interest in some necessary undertaking by offering a prize for a talk or a paper.

Here are some suggestive subjects which might be revised to fit local conditions:

1. Plans for planting trees in.....
2. The advantages of having a community pageant in.....
3. Plans for a community Fourth of July
4. How we might observe Arbor Day
5. A better handling of our food (or coal) supply
6. Cooperative Associations in our community
7. Plans for interesting more people in the library
8. Needless waste in our community
9. The best kinds of amusement in our town
10. A history of our community
11. What I like best about our town
12. The kind of town I should like ours to be
13. The management of our town
14. The relation of our community to the state
15. Could our community produce a great leader?
16. How the Government is prepared to help our community (bulletins, farm bureau exhibits, etc.)
17. Help from our State Departments

Catching Coppers at a Fair—II

M. CAROLINE GEYER.

VI. Barrel Throw

Place empty barrel about twenty feet from throwing line. Place cover with small triangular hole over barrel. Allow five balls for five cents and score as in "Bow and Arrow." Certain number balls thrown into barrel equal one slip, etc.

VII.

One "White Elephant" table is always profitable. Many people are asked to give something no longer of use to them. Things are then sold at clear profit.

VIII.

Have one or more central booths, where tickets are sold for everything. Tickets valued at five cents each. Articles of all kinds may be bought only with these tickets. This saves delay in counting out change at every counter.

Lancaster, Pennsylvania Specializes in Gardens

Home and school gardens are having quite a wide spread development in the state of Pennsylvania owing to the fact that it is a policy of the State Board of Education to develop the home and school garden idea.

The Director of Recreation in Lancaster saw here an opportunity to cooperate in a worthwhile movement and make it an asset to the recreation scheme in Lancaster. Therefore, a simple, attractive medal was designed attached to a beautiful dark blue ribbon bearing the legend, "Gardener" and the hundreds of entries in the school and home garden work in Lancaster were told that at the end of the season those measuring up to a certain standard would be awarded one of these medals as a lasting reminder of his or her good work as gardeners.

The season was long and hot, and rains were infrequent. This meant that boys and girls had to work very much harder carrying water and giving far more attention than usual to the work of their gardens. Nevertheless, 103 medals were awarded to successful gardeners, both boys and girls, who in an unusual season had succeeded in maintaining a high standard.

One of the mothers in chatting over this work said: "This has been a fine thing for my boys and girls and really one would not believe the amount of good things that could be grown in a small plot. We have appreciated the result of the work of our children in their garden and feel that it is very much worth while not only because of what we can get for our table but because of the interest that it gave to the whole family."

A Christmas Gift Suggestion

Why not bring a bit of the spirit of Christmas to your friend each month during the coming year by sending with your holiday greetings a paid subscription to *THE PLAYGROUND* for 1922? Make the arrangement NOW so that an attractive acknowledgment of your subscription may be forwarded to you well in advance of the time when you will be sending out your Christmas greetings.

PLAYGROUND AND RECREATION ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA,
1 Madison Avenue, New York City

Letting the Foreign-Born American Speak for Himself

The Brotherhood of the Emanuel Congregational Church of Hartford, Connecticut, held "Neighbors' Night" recently. First they served a substantial supper—always an excellent beginning for anything that has to do with being neighborly. Then followed a series of talks by men who represented different national groups in the city.

The Reverend Paolo Vasquez explained the situation of the twenty thousand Italians in Hartford, described their leading characteristics and asked for a better understanding of them, and more sympathy with them.

The Reverend Alexander Nizandkowski spoke for seven or eight thousand Slavonians. Though he had been in Hartford eighteen years this was, he said, his first opportunity to address a representative group of Americans in the interest of his people. "The Slavonians think Americans care nothing about them or any foreigners," was a statement that set many of his audience thinking.

A young Chinese, twenty-two or thereabouts, characterized his people as honest, patient, friendly, peace-loving and bashful. He deplored the way in which the Chinese have been misrepresented by books, newspapers and moving pictures, and reminded his hearers that, "not all Chinese are opium-eaters or even laundrymen!"

The last talk was given by the pastor, who mentioned some of the best things and also some of the worst things about American people and stressed the responsibility of churchmen for helping America to live up to her ideals.

It was just a little venture in neighborliness, but who knows how wide spread and how lasting may be its results in better understanding and sympathy between the different nationalities in Hartford?

* * * "an assertion of the might of the imagination in this world, turning it from mud color to golden and forming, indeed, the most necessary aid to living in the full category of heaven's gifts to man."

RICHARD BURTON in *The New American Drama* (Crowell)

Plays Suggested for Girls' and Women's Clubs

I. FOR BEGINNERS

The Burglar by Margaret Cameron. One act, easy interior. Time 30 min. Modern costumes. One of the most popular plays for girls ever written. 5 parts. All parts good, and a surprise ending. Obtained from Samuel French, price 30c

The Girls by Mabel H. Crane. A comedy in one act, interior setting. 9 characters. Time 45 minutes. Re-union of old classmates after many years with a romance woven in. Obtained from Samuel French, price 30c. No royalty

Her Scarlet Slippers by Alice C. Thompson. One act with interior setting. 4 characters. Touching little play of the reward of generosity. Obtained from the Penn Publishing Co., price 15c. No royalty

The Honor of the Class by Eleanor M. Crane. 9 female characters. One act with an interior setting. Scene in a girls' school. Obtained from Samuel French, price 30c. No royalty

How the Story Grew by O. W. Gleason. 5 short scenes; two interiors can serve for all. 8 characters. The spread of gossip about a supposedly haunted house. Easy to produce. 45 minutes. Obtained from Walter Baker, price 15c. No royalty

The Literary Club by Marion B. O'Keefe. American-Japanese play in two scenes. 40 minutes. 9 characters. Obtained from Samuel French, price 30c. No royalty

Mechanical Jane by M. E. Barker. A comedy in 1 act. Interior setting. Easy to produce. Simple but amusing. Time 25 minutes. Three characters. Two speaking parts, one part played by mechanical servant. Obtained from Samuel French, price 30c. Royalty

Mrs. Oakley's Telephone by Eulora Jennings. 1 act with 1 interior. 4 characters. Complications over the telephone and a climax of surprise. Time 45 min. German and Irish dialect. Obtained from Samuel French, price 30c. Royalty

The Rainbow Kimono by Eleanor Maud Crane. 9 characters. Two acts. Interior scene. 1½ hours. Happenings in a boarding school club of seven girls. Obtained from the Fitzgerald Publishing Corp., price 25c. No royalty

The Reader by Ada T. Ammermann. A comedy in 1 act. 1

A POTENT FORCE FOR DEMOCRACY

interior. Time 30 min. 7 characters. Easy but entertaining. Obtained from Samuel French, price 30c. No royalty

The Revolt by Ellis Parker Butler, author of "Pigs is Pigs." 1 act with 8 or more female characters. Simple setting. An excellent comedy which has had many successful productions. Obtained from Samuel French, price 30c. No royalty

Six Cups of Chocolate by Edith Mathews. A comedy in 1 act with interior setting. Time 45 min. 6 characters. Very clever and always successful. Obtained from Samuel French, price 25c. No royalty

To Meet Mr. Thompson by Clara J. Denton. 1 act and 1 interior. 8 parts. 20 min. Sure to amuse, easy to produce. Obtained from Walter Baker, price 15c. No royalty

A Potent Force for Democracy

I do not hesitate to say that Community Service has been the most potent force for wholesome occupation of leisure time and the promotion of neighborliness and democratic cooperation our city has known during my many years residence in it. Indeed many have said that never before in its history, unless it be the public school movement, has there ever been so purely a nonsectarian, non-political and absolutely community-wide a movement in Clarkesville.

It is my hope that Community Service may be found in every city in America. Its purposes as I understand them after three months of close study and association are thoroughly wholesome and all of its activities which I have seen are calculated to elevate the morale and morals of the people, to make for neighborliness and application of the golden rule to everyday life as well as to instill in the minds of our young people Christian habits of thought and of action at the same time building their bodies by proper seasonable recreations.

Thanking you again and with profoundest regard for your most praiseworthy and altruistic work for a bigger, better, fuller life for the people of America, I am

Sincerely yours,
(Signed) E. J. BARNETT,
Pastor Christian Church,
President Ministerial Association



"The world is so full of a number of things
I'm sure we should all be as happy as kings."

ELTON T. COWAN CO.

INCORPORATED

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YOU

ought to get a free sample copy of *BETTER TIMES*, New York's Welfare Magazine. It reports the most important activities of the 2,000 charitable and public welfare agencies. Also publishes articles containing practical suggestions on the administration of social agencies. Subscription \$2.00 a year; with *The PLAYGROUND* \$3.00.

Better Times, 100 Gold Street,
New York.

Suggestions for a Christmas Program

Arranged by the
Bureau of Educational Dramatics
PRICE 25c

This bulletin contains:

An outline of an Old English Christmas Revel.

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October 1st, 1921.

State of New York, County of New York, ss.

Before me, a Notary Public in and for the State and county aforesaid, personally appeared H. S. Braucher, who, having been duly sworn according to law, deposes and says that he is the Editor of THE PLAYGROUND and that the following is, to the best of his knowledge and belief, a true statement of the ownership, management (and if a daily paper, the circulation), etc., of the aforesaid publication for the date shown in the above caption, required by the Act of August 24, 1912, embodied in section 443, Postal Laws and Regulations, printed on the reverse of this form, to wit:

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Publisher, Playground & Recreation Ass'n of America, 1 Madison Avenue, New York City.

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Business Manager, Arthur Williams, 1 Madison Avenue, New York City.

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H. S. BRAUCHER.

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